



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 322**

February Session, 2004

\* SB00322HS 031104 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES  
FOR THE BLIND.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-293 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

3 (a) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall consist  
4 of seven members, six of whom shall be appointed by the Governor  
5 and shall be residents of this state. The Commissioner of Social  
6 Services shall be a member, ex officio. [The other six members , two of  
7 whom shall be blind persons, shall be appointed by the Governor, and  
8 each shall be a resident of this state.] One of the members appointed by  
9 the Governor shall be the parent of a child who receives services  
10 provided by the board, and not less than two of the members  
11 appointed by the Governor shall be blind persons. The Governor may,  
12 for reasonable cause, remove any [appointive] appointed member and  
13 appoint another person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of  
14 the term. [Said] The board shall meet annually in the month of  
15 September and may meet at any other time upon the call of its director;  
16 and the director shall call a meeting at the request of two members.  
17 Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings  
18 or fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be  
19 deemed to have resigned. A majority of the members in office shall

20 constitute a quorum. The board shall adopt rules for its own action and  
21 regulations for determining what persons shall receive benefits under  
22 the provisions of this chapter.

23 (b) The Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall be  
24 within the Department of Social Services for administrative purposes  
25 only.

26 Sec. 2. Section 3 of public act 03-217 is repealed and the following is  
27 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

28 (a) There is established a council to monitor the activities of the  
29 Board of Education and Services for the Blind in carrying out its  
30 mission and statutorily prescribed duties.

31 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

32 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
33 one who shall be a person with expertise in business administration  
34 and financial management;

35 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
36 is a representative of a state-wide organization that represents the  
37 interests of the blind;

38 (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
39 Representatives who is an adult with blindness, receiving services  
40 from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind;

41 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who is an  
42 adult with blindness, receiving services from the Board of Education  
43 and Services for the Blind;

44 (5) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
45 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
46 relating to human services, or their designees;

47 (6) The chairpersons of the legislative program and review

48 committee, or their designees;

49 (7) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
50 secretary's designee;

51 (8) The Commissioner of [the Department of] Social Services, or the  
52 commissioner's designee;

53 (9) The Commissioner of [the Department of] Education, or the  
54 commissioner's designee;

55 (10) The executive director of the Board of Education and Services  
56 for the Blind, or the director's designee.

57 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subdivision (5) or  
58 (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General  
59 Assembly.

60 (d) All appointments to the council shall be made no later than  
61 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
62 filled by the appointing authority.

63 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
64 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council,  
65 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall  
66 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later  
67 than July 1, 2003. The council shall meet at least monthly thereafter  
68 until February 1, [2004] 2005, and shall terminate not later than July 1,  
69 [2004] 2005.

70 (f) The council, in consultation with the Board of Education and  
71 Services for the Blind shall establish benchmarks concerning agency  
72 management, operations and services. The council shall: (1) Monitor  
73 the activities of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind  
74 regarding: (A) The quality, efficiency and equity of (i) educational  
75 services for children who are blind or visually impaired, (ii) home and  
76 daily living skills services for persons who are blind, (iii) vocational  
77 rehabilitation services and programs for persons who are blind, (iv)

78 outreach efforts to identify and provide information and services to  
 79 elderly persons who are blind, (B) the provision of employment  
 80 training and experience in a competitive work environment and  
 81 availability of the broadest employment and entrepreneurial  
 82 opportunities for individuals who are blind, (C) the development and  
 83 implementation of strategic planning efforts, (D) the accountability of  
 84 fiscal operations, including, but not limited to, the preparation of a  
 85 detailed program budget and expenditure reports, (E) agency  
 86 implementation of the administrative recommendations contained in  
 87 the December, 2002 Legislative Program Review and Investigations  
 88 Committee on the Board of Education and Services vending  
 89 operations; and (2) develop recommendations for proposed changes in  
 90 the organizational structure of the Board of Education and Services for  
 91 the Blind.

92 (g) Not later than February 1, [2004] 2005, the council shall submit a  
 93 report on the progress made by the Board of Education and Services  
 94 for the Blind in meeting benchmarks established by the council to the  
 95 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
 96 of matters relating to human services, appropriations and the budgets  
 97 of state agencies and education, in accordance with the provisions of  
 98 section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall also include  
 99 legislative proposals and recommendations for proposed changes in  
 100 the organizational structure of the Board of Education and Services for  
 101 the Blind.

102 (h) Failure by the Board of Education and Services for the Blind to  
 103 meet specific benchmarks established by the council may result in the  
 104 transfer of authority and related funding for deficient programs and  
 105 services to another state agency.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

The effective date in section 2 was changed from "Effective October 1, 2004" to "Effective from passage". Such change is required to ensure that the monitoring council not go out of existence on July 1, 2004.

**HS**        *Joint Favorable Subst.*